

# Highlights of the 28th Annual Meeting 1952

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COMMITTEE PROGRAM  
No. 2

★ The Human Race is divided into two classifications—those who go ahead and do something, and those who sit and inquire why it wasn't done the other way.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

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SASKATCHEWAN  
CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCERS  
LIMITED  
REGINA, SASK.

# Highlights of the 28th Annual Meeting 1952

The Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool was held in Regina, November 4th to November 14th. Wheat Pool delegates, representing all shareholders, reviewed the business in all departments for the year ending July 31, 1952. The Balance Sheet was approved, and the figures tell a story of the benefits which farmers enjoy when they work together.

What the Wheat Pool has accomplished or what it has to say about farm policy, however large a business concern it may be, would have little importance were it not that the opinions and policies come from its members.

**Assets** Assets costing \$43,838,558.89 include: 1,155 country elevators, 1,130 bins and annex with a total storage capacity of over sixty-seven million bushels. Three large modern grain terminals at the Lakehead with a storage capacity of over twenty million bushels.

The Western Producer: a weekly newspaper providing a vital service to the farm community.

A province wide co-operative livestock marketing service.

A flour mill and vegetable oil plant operated in the interest of co-operative producers and consumers.

Head Office building and other property of various kinds.

**Investment of Members** The net investment is made up as follows: Membership fees (\$1.00 per share) \$139,036.00; Elevator Deductions, \$12,835,944.86; Commercial Reserves, \$6,916,972.97; Reserves, \$4,447,790.75. Total, \$24,339,744.58.

Up to July 31st, 1952, Elevator Deductions and Commercial Reserves totalling \$11,373,205.85 were purchased and approved for transfer from estates of deceased members, or from aged members who are no longer farming, to member-patrons who have de-

livered grain to Pool Elevators. In addition, the sum of \$1,271,250.00 has been provided from this year's earnings for transferring deductions.

**New Members** During the year, 5,746 new members each took out a share in the Pool. This compares with 3,866 shares issued in the previous year. Total membership, 139,036.

**Paid to Member-Patrons 1925-1952** The sum of \$38,513,062.87 has been paid out in cash or credits to the member-patrons since the Pool was organized (see Statement No. 5 in the Twenty-eighth Annual Report).

In March, 1952, over 78,000 patronage refund cheques were mailed to member-patrons who delivered grain to Pool Elevators during the year ending July 31st, 1951. For the year 1951-1952 the Patronage Refund is 3¼ cents per bushel on all grain. Handling charges on wheat at time of delivery were 4½ cents per bushel.

The main point in farmers owning this elevator system is so the owners can ship their grain through their own elevators and provide this service at cost.

**Country Organization** In addition to looking after and promoting the general welfare of the Pool, the main point in having a Country Organization, viz., delegates and committeemen and fieldmen is to see to it that information and facts about their own Pool is made available to all Pool members.

The strength, usefulness and progress of the Pool goes hand in hand with these two main purposes.

During the year under review, district representatives attended 2,446 meetings of all kinds with an estimated attendance of 116,126. Motion pictures were shown at 723 of these meetings. In addition there were personal visits to 7,221 farmers, 3,292 businessmen and 4,174 Pool Elevator Agents.

A great deal of time was spent with growers, committeemen and Pool Agents in explaining facts about the use of the Car Order Book. The right of the growers in this matter is

highly important and a principle which must not be lost.

A program of co-operative schools, citizenship days and rallies was continued during the year. Six one-week Co-operative schools were held with a total attendance of 376 young people. The Co-operative Canteen is one of the effective and practical lessons of the school.

The fieldmen assisted the Extension Department of the University of Saskatchewan in promoting and organizing four six-weeks regional agricultural short courses under the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Plan.

In addition to working in promoting sales of Pool Co-op Flour and helping committees and livestock shippers in organizing and assembling co-operative livestock shipments, the fieldmen carried on a general program of organization and education work in close co-operation with Wheat Pool Directors, delegates, committeemen and employees.

**Wheat Pool Committees** At July 31st, 1952, there were 1,137 Wheat Pool Committees and of these 1,066 were elected during the year. Head Office received and acknowledged minutes covering 5,128 local meetings and 128 committee conventions.

The sum of \$24,090.00 remuneration was paid on application to committees who reported holding four or more meetings.

Wheat Pool Committees are the source of much co-operative strength and progress and are an important factor in building and tying together public opinion in matters affecting the marketing of farm products.

**Committee Conventions** One hundred and twenty-eight conventions were held with an attendance higher than the previous year. The reports of committee work during the year, presented by the secretary of each committee, together with a discussion of these reports, led by the Wheat Pool delegate, was the key item on the agenda at all conventions. The "discussion groups" which were introduced last year, and which were so enthusiastically received, were continued, with satisfactory participation on the part of committeemen.

The work and recommendations of the

convention were covered in Committee Program No. 6, "Highlights of the Committee Convention, 1952." The policy of the Organization was endorsed by all conventions.

### **Country and Terminal Elevators**

To comply with the continued demand for additional storage space the storage capacity at Pool Elevators has been doubled since 1940. By December this year the total country storage capacity will be about 70,482,000 bushels. Deliveries to Pool Elevators last season was 179,623,910 bushels. Pool Elevator shipments to Churchill amounted to 3,470,095 bushels or 43.576% of all grain shipped to that port. Throughout the whole of the season, from 350 to 550 of our Elevators were badly congested and unable to receive all grain offered by shareholders. Part of the solution lies in a better distribution of cars. Surely the fair way of allocating cars to elevators is in accordance with the growers' own preference as provided in the Car Order Book sections of the Canada Grain Act!

Pool Terminals handled 113,711,293 bushels as compared to 76,950,407 bushels in the previous season. This is 25.2% of the total number of cars unloaded at the Lakehead from Western Canada.

### **Surplus Earnings**

Surplus for the year ended 31st July, 1952, amounted to \$6,320,507.08. After providing \$590,000.00 for income tax; \$105,731.76 for share of earnings to Saskatchewan Co-operative Producers Limited; \$116,025.32 for Reserve Account, the balance of \$5,508,750.00 will be payable as a Patronage Refund. The refund will total 3¼ cents per bushel made up as follows: 1 cent per bushel to be paid in cash, ¾ cents will be used to purchase and transfer deductions and 1½ cents will be retained by the company as loan capital and to be set up to the credit of member-patrons.

### **Flour Mill**

After providing for depreciation of \$167,075.12 and charging rental amounting to \$127,829.24 payable to the Elevator Company, the operations of the Mill showed a loss of \$186,718.40.

The mill worked around the clock for 267 days and made 349,037 barrels of flours of which 87,032 were sold here in Canada.

The production of our mill will be increased to a maximum of two thousand barrels per day.

Pool Flour has proved its worth both on the domestic and export markets. Wheat Pool members, and customers appreciate the unconditional guarantee which accompanies this high quality product of the farmers' Flour Mill. Increase in domestic sales is in the hands of the farmers and their families in Saskatchewan.

**Vegetable Oil Plant** After providing \$22,748.29 rent to Pool Elevators and \$43,584.20 for depreciation the Vegetable Oil Plant for the year ended 31st July, 1952, showed an operating loss of \$185,092.30.

The plant operated thirty-five days on flax and forty-three days on rapeseed, a total of seventy-eight days operations this year as compared with 135% days' operations last year.

Sales of linseed oil to the domestic market totalled 1,443,562 pounds as compared with 2,746,998 pounds in the previous year. Export sales were 59,865 pounds as compared with 368,964 pounds in the previous year.

A total of 4,658,895 pounds of rapeseed was crushed on a customs basis. A number of varieties of oil-bearing Safflower seed were under test at the University of Saskatchewan trial plots and one or two of these have shown definite promise.

**Modern Press Limited** After providing for depreciation and interest the commercial printing department made \$17,834.07 and The Western Producer department showed an operating loss of \$118,916.23 leaving the total net loss for the year \$101,082.16. This is \$57,227.52 less than a year ago.

The circulation of The Western Producer is 146,018 with 77,977 subscribers in Saskatchewan. The Producer continues to provide strength and support to farm programs and to express opinions on policies and practices which affect the well being of the farm families in Western Canada.

The Women's and Youth sections along

with the agriculture features have continued to appeal to farm readers.

**Livestock Operations** During the first five months of the year under review the cattle trade in Canada remained in a favorable position.

On the 25th February it was officially announced that foot-and-mouth had broken out. Almost immediately embargoes and restrictions were placed against the movement of livestock and meats from Canada to the U.S.A. and from Saskatchewan into the regular trade channels of eastern and western Canada.

In this critical situation, your livestock organization was asked to assist the Government in carrying out the only practical policy at that time, of holding back livestock on the farms in an effort to avoid chaotic conditions and drastic price declines.

On 22nd April the Government announced a floor price of twenty-five cents per pound basis top steers at Toronto and Montreal and also developed a three-way plan under which Canadian beef could be shipped to Great Britain in place of beef purchased by the United States and sold in that country for what it would bring on the open market.

From an operating standpoint the policy of controlling deliveries to our markets meant restricted volume and loss of revenue. In view of these difficult conditions the operating surplus of \$4,200.28 may be considered very satisfactory.

**Members' Opinions in Action** Resolutions sent in during the year from committees or public pool meetings together with resolutions from Committee Conventions and District Delegates' meetings are made available to the Resolutions Committee. This Committee is made up of one delegate from each district. The resolutions (approximately two thousand) are examined by the Resolutions Committee, and are presented to the general meeting at the time the topic referred to is before the meeting. Any delegate, of course, has the right to offer an amendment or present a new resolution. In this democratic manner, policy is formed.

## **International Wheat Agreement**

The Wheat Pool is in favor of a renewal of an International Wheat Agreement. There is ample evidence that it has contributed much to stability in marketing and in price. The Pool will do everything within its power to assist in securing a fair and satisfactory renewal with some flexibility in price ranges so that prices may be adjusted during the life of the agreement to meet changing production costs.

## **Farmer Unity**

The greatest strength of the farm movement in Canada today probably lies in the fact that it presents a united front stretching from the Maritimes to British Columbia. This is accomplished through the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, which is composed of provincial and regional federations of farmer organizations.

The Wheat Pool has from the first played a leading part in the formation and development of the C.F.A. It believes that an agricultural policy that is worth while must be a Canadian agricultural policy, and the benefits must go right back into the farm homes.

